

## Hunting Game and Birds

ROG 16-70 2/2020

Residents and visitors to Gold Country have a long tradition of hunting animals within what is now the Stanislaus National Forest.

Proliferation of game within the forest affords meaningful hunting opportunities in season. Hunting regulations are published by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and can be found on their website at [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov).

Regulations are published by species, such as mammals and waterfowl. They also define seasons by the type of weapon allowed, such as bow or gun season. Most hunters in the Stanislaus hunt deer, turkey or bear. Firearm regulations have been developed to promote enjoyment and safety. Using a safe, commonsense approach while hunting on the forest prevents injury to others and minimizes damage to natural resources.



### Wilderness Hunting

Visitors may not shoot any firearm, air rifle or gas gun within the boundaries of any wilderness area (Emigrant, Carson-Iceberg or Mokelumne), except by licensed hunters in season. (36 CFR 261.58(m)).

### Special Restricted Areas

Per forest orders and California game laws, one may not carry a loaded firearm in a state game refuge. The nearest

refuge is between the North and Middle forks of the Stanislaus River. In these areas, the weapon must be broken down, with the trigger assembly removed from the housing, and kept in a place separate from the ammunition.

### Weapons and Vehicles

Visitors may not carry loaded firearms on or in a vehicle. A weapon is considered loaded if the ammunition is in or attached to a weapon, including a loaded clip or magazine. During hunting season, the clip or magazine may be in the weapon but the round cannot be chambered.

### Discharging a Weapon

Visitors may not discharge a firearm from a vehicle, nor shoot a firearm in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or other occupied area. Firearms may not be discharged across, or on, any forest road, body of water or in any way that would expose a person or property to injury or damage from such a discharge. (36 CFR 261.10(d) and California Gun Laws).

### Help Keep The Forest Safe

We ask any visitors to the forest who witness shooting incidents or actions involving firearms that they believe do not conform with established local, state or federal policy to report the occurrence to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

### Know Your Hunting Zones

In California, hunting permits are issued by hunting zones. Tags in certain zones are determined by lottery draw, or allow hunting of multiple zones on the same tag. You may only take the appropriate type and number in the zone for which the tag is issued. If you aren't sure which zone your favorite hunting spot falls in, ask a game warden or forest ranger for more information, or visit:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/hunting](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/hunting).



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### What To Wear In The Woods

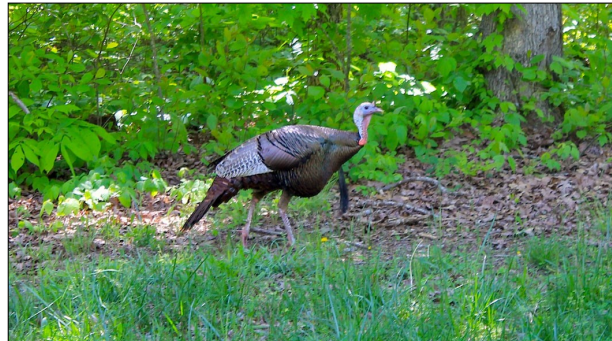
Take care to wear clothing that gives you a good chance of being seen by hunters. It's no good being able to hide from the animals if the end result is that you are mistaken for one and injured as a result. Wear bright orange vests and clothing that is easily distinguishable from the vegetation where you are hiding.

### Kill Validation

Hunters must validate their kills prior to returning home. Your deer kill may be validated at any Forest Service facility or by any Fish and Wildlife personnel. Tags should be completely filled out when the animal is taken

California Fish and Wildlife must validate all bear kills. (*Note: the bear's skull must be kept for accurate validation*) Hunters may remove the kill from the forest and arrange an appointment with Region 4:

- Fresno office of Fish and Wildlife  
(559) 243-4005, Ext. 132 or Ext. 133
- Moccasin Hatchery (209) 989-2312
- Mokelumne River Hatchery  
(209) 759-3383



To learn more about hunting on specific ranger districts, contact us at:

#### **Stanislaus National Forest**

19777 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 532-3671

#### **Summit Ranger District**

#1 Pinecrest Lake Road  
Pinecrest, CA 95364  
(209) 965-3434

#### **Groveland Ranger District**

24545 Hwy 120  
Groveland, CA 95321  
(209) 962-7825

#### **Calaveras Ranger District**

5519 Hwy 4  
PO Box 500  
Hathaway Pines, CA 95323



Please read and review the firearm safety course published by the California Office of the Attorney General at [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov)

[California Firearm Safety Certificate  
Study Guide](https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/firearms/forms/hscsg.pdf)

<https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/firearms/forms/hscsg.pdf>

The National Rifle Association also has a website for further information and firearm safety:

[www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org)